



CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS  
117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

January 14, 2022

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Shou Zi Chew  
Chief Executive Officer  
TikTok  
5800 Bristol Pkwy  
Culver City, CA 94066

Dear Mr. Chew,

We write as Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) to respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss the problem of Spanish-language misinformation on your platform, and to learn more about the steps that your company is taking to address this critical issue.

Addressing Spanish-language misinformation on TikTok must remain an urgent priority. Many federal and state agencies, Members of Congress, and public health organizations rely on platforms like TikTok to communicate life-saving health information and share federal resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that TikTok is an international platform with millions of users around the world and that your platform plays a significant role in the dissemination of information. There is information that misinformation is a growing problem on the platform, with one investigation by Media Matters for America identifying 11 examples of election misinformation spreading on TikTok, with over 200,000 combined views.<sup>1</sup> With 31% of Hispanic adults on TikTok<sup>2</sup>, this is a matter of significant concern for our constituents.

This is not the first time Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus are expressing deep concern on this issue. Many Members have publicly raised the alarm on the spread of Spanish-language misinformation online.<sup>3,4,5</sup> In July, Members led a letter signed by twenty six members of Congress on this very issue to several online platforms. Members have also called publicly for online

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mediamatters.org/tiktok/election-misinformation-going-viral-tiktok>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/chart/who-uses-tiktok-nextdoor/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/tech-companies-blasted-inaction-spanish-language-disinformation-rcna4489>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.lujan.senate.gov/press-releases/lujan-klobuchar-urge-tech-ceos-to-take-action-against-disinformation-dozen-combat-coronavirus-vaccine-disinformation/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.menendez.senate.gov/newsroom/press/menendez-hirono-warren-urge-facebook-to-take-immediate-actions-to-stop-covid-19-misinformation-in-languages-other-than-english>

platforms to release information on their effectiveness at detecting the prevalence of violative content separated by language.

As Hispanic Members of Congress, we have a duty to provide oversight of the role digital platforms play in how we communicate with our communities and how our communities receive important information. Ensuring that Spanish-language misinformation is swiftly and effectively addressed is a priority, and we respectfully ask for a meeting to discuss solutions to the problem of Spanish language misinformation on your platform.

Respectfully,



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



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First Vice-Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Adriano Espaillat  
Second Vice-Chair  
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Member of Congress  
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Alexandria Ocasio Cortez  
Member of Congress  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus